

**PROPOSED CORRECTION OF AN ERRONEOUS ENTRY
ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN
ZOOLOGY" RELATING TO THE NAME "PENAEUS"
WEBER, 1795 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)
(CORRECTION OF AN ENTRY IN "OPINION" 104)**

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to rectify an error made in *Opinion* 104 when the name *Penaeus* Weber, 1795 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) was placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. The error involved was detected in the process of preparing the *Official List* for publication in book form.

2. The following is the entry made on the *Official List* in respect of the name *Penaeus* Weber in *Opinion* 104 (1928, *Smithson. miscel. Coll.* **73** (No. 5) : 27) :—
" *Penaeus* Fabr. in Weber, 1795a, 94 (1798 emendation of 1795 misprint) tsd (1810) *monodon*."

3. The name *Peneus* (so spelt) was first published by Weber in 1795 on page 94 of his *Nomencl. ent. Syst. Fabr.*, a work in which Weber attempted (with very imperfect success) to set out the system of classification worked out by Fabricius. As is well known, this work consists essentially of a list of generic and specific names; where new generic names were introduced, no verbal diagnosis was given for the nominal genera so established, but these generic names are available under the *Règles*, in those cases where under the generic name concerned Weber cited a specific name that was itself an available name in the sense that it had previously been published with a description, definition or indication. In the case of the nominal genus *Peneus*, Weber cited three specific names as the names of species regarded as belonging to this genus, one of these names being *Peneus monodon*. The point which was overlooked by the applicant who submitted the case dealt with in *Opinion* 104 was that each of the three specific names cited by Weber under his genus *Peneus* was a *nomen nudum*. The position is therefore that the generic name *Peneus* Weber, 1795, is itself a *nomen nudum*, being a generic name published (1) without any verbal indication and (2) without any previously published nominal species referred to it. It was therefore under a complete misapprehension of the facts that this name was admitted to the *Official List* and its removal therefrom is accordingly inevitable, unless the International Commission were to decide to use its plenary powers both to validate this name and also to provide the genus so named with a type species.

4. Since Weber's little book was admittedly no more than an advance announcement of the system of classification devised by Fabricius, it was only to be expected that, when Fabricius published his *Supplementum Entomologiae systematicae*, he should himself publish the foregoing name as a new name of his

own. This is exactly what Fabricius did do, except that he naturally adopted the correct spelling *Penaeus* (Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 385, 408). Fabricius provided his genus *Penaeus* with a verbal diagnosis and in addition referred to the genus so named validly described nominal species. Under the *Règles*, either of these courses is sufficient to confer availability upon a new generic name (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 78-80). The name *Penaeus* Fabricius, 1798, not being a homonym of a previously published generic name consisting of the same word, is in these circumstances an available name.

5. One of these nominal species included by Fabricius in 1798 in his genus *Penaeus* was the species *Penaeus monodon* Fabricius, then described for the first time (1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 408). Fabricius did not designate a type species for this genus and it is necessary therefore to ascertain when one of the species included in the genus by Fabricius was first subsequently selected as the type species. This was in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 102, 422) when Latreille so selected *Penaeus monodon* Fabricius, 1798.

6. We see therefore that the object which the applicant in the case dealt with in *Opinion* 104 had in mind, but which he failed to secure, can now be secured without the use of the plenary powers, simply by the substitution on the *Official List* of the valid name *Penaeus* Fabricius, 1798, for the invalid name *Peneus* Weber, 1795, and this is what it is now recommended should be done. In view of the widespread demand for the publication of the first instalment of the *Official List* and the fact that publication cannot take place until this and certain other errors have been corrected, it is hoped that the International Commission will give all practicable priority to the present application.

7. The specific action which is now recommended is that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

- (1) delete from the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the invalid name *Penaeus* (emend. of *Peneus*) Weber, 1795, erroneously added thereto under *Opinion* 104, and in its place insert as Name No. 498, the name *Penaeus* Fabricius, 1798 (type species, by selection by Latreille (1810) : *Penaeus monodon* Fabricius, 1798) ; *Opinion* 104 being at the same time corrected accordingly ;
- (2) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) the name *Peneus* Weber, 1795 (a *nomen nudum*) ;
 - (b) the name *Penaeus* (emend. of *Peneus*) Weber, 1795 (a cheironym) ;
- (3) place the trivial name *monodon* Fabricius, 1798 (as published in the binominal combination *Penaeus monodon*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) place the trivial name *monodon* Weber, 1795 (as published in the binominal combination *Peneus monodon*) (a *nomen nudum*) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.